

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for printing application data comprising the steps of:
forming a connection between a client and a printer driver server;
transmitting the application data from the client to the printer driver server;
transcoding a format of the application data received in the printer driver server to a printer format;
transmitting the transcoded application data in the printer format from the printer driver server to a printer; and
printing the data.

2. The method according to claim 1, further including the step of transmitting a printer identifier from the client to the server, wherein the printer identifier identifies the type of printer on which the application data is to be printed.

3. The method according to claim 2, further including the step of retrieving a printer driver from a database, the retrieved printer driver being based on the printer identifier.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the application data in the printer format is transmitted to the client for subsequent printing on the printer.

5. The method according to claim 1, further including the step of transmitting an address of the printer from the client to the server, wherein the application data in the printer format is transmitted directly to the printer using the address of the printer.

6. A system for printing application data comprising:
a client originating the application data; and
a printer driver server remotely connected to the client, which receives the application data, the printer driver server including a database containing a plurality of printer drivers and a transcoder configured to: (a) convert a format of the received application data to a printer format using one of the plurality of printer drivers retrieved from the database and (b) transmit the application data in the printer format to a printer.

7. The system according to claim 6, wherein the printer receives the application data in the printer format via the client.

8. The system according to claim 6, wherein the printer receives the application data in the printer format directly from the printer server.

9. A printer driver server remotely connected to a client comprising:
a database containing a plurality of printer drivers, and
a transcoder, wherein the transcoder is configured to convert a format of application data received from the client to a printer format using a selected one of the plurality of printer drivers retrieved from the database.

10. The server according to claim 9, wherein the printer driver server selects the printer driver based on a command received from the client.

11. The server according to claim 10, wherein the command includes an identification of the printer.

12. The server according to claim 10, wherein the command includes an address of the printer and the printer driver server determines an identification of the printer based on the address of the printer and information in the printer driver server database relating the address of the printer to the identification of the printer.